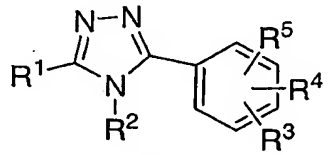
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a condition responsive to inhibition of 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-1 in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to said mammal a therapeuticallly effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

each n is 0, 1, or 2;

each p is 0, 1, or 2;

R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of

pyridyl,

thienyl,

furyl,

pyrazolyl,

thiazolyl,

oxazolyl,

imidazolyl,

indolyl,

benzothiophenyl,

benzofuryl, and

benzimidazolyl;

in which aryl and heteroaryl are substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^3, R^4, and R^5;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of

C_{1-4} alkyl,

C_{2-4} alkenyl, and

$(CH_2)_n$-C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^3, R^4, and R^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

formyl,

C_{1-6} alkyl,

C_{2-6} alkenyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heterocyclyl,
$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,
halogen,
OR^7,
$(CH_2)_nN(R^7)_2$,
cyano,
$(CH_2)_nCO_2R^7$,
NO_2,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7SO_2R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nS(O)_pR^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2OR^7$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7C(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6C(O)R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6CO_2R^7$,
$O(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
CF_3,
CH_2CF_3,
OCF_3,
$OCHCF_2$, and
OCH_2CF_3;

wherein aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, and C_{1-4} alkoxy; and wherein any methylene (CH_2) carbon atom in R^3, R^4, and R^5 is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C_{1-4} alkyl; or two substituents when on the same methylene (CH_2) carbon atom are taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form a cyclopropyl group;

each R^6 is independently selected from the group consisting of
C_{1-8} alkyl,
C_{2-4} alkynyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,

$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl, and

$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl;

wherein alkyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, hydroxy, and amino; and aryl and heteroaryl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{1-4} alkoxy;

or two R^6 groups together with the atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 8-membered mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from O, S, and NC_{0-4} alkyl; and

each R^7 is hydrogen or R^6.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of diabetes, obesity, insulin resistance, a lipid disorder, hypertension, atherosclerosis, and Metabolic Syndrome.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein R^2 is methyl.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 and R^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of amino, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, C_{2-3} alkynyloxy, C_{1-5} alkyl, cyclopropyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, and C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is phenyl or naphthyl each of which is substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^3.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of amino, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylthio, and phenylsulfonyl, wherein the phenyl moiety of each is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{1-4} alkoxy.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein R^2 is methyl.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is heteroaryl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^3.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein R^2 is methyl.

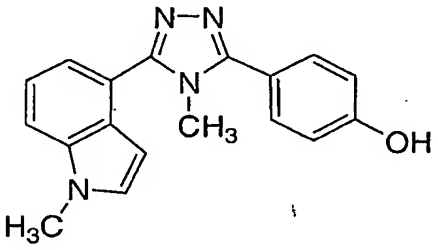
10. The method of Claim 8 wherein heteroaryl is pyrazolyl or indolyl, each of which is substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^3.

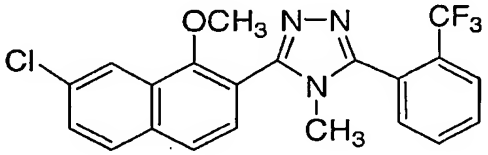
11. The method of Claim 10 wherein R^2 is methyl.

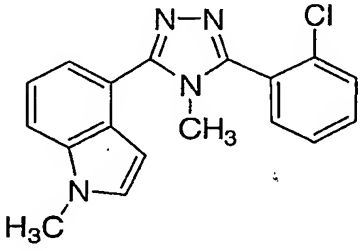
12. The method of Claim 10 wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of amino, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylthio, and phenylsulfonyl, wherein the phenyl moiety of each is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{1-4} alkoxy.

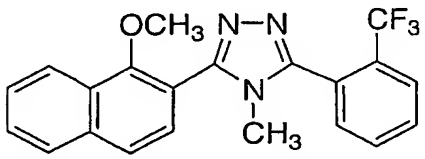
13. The method of Claim 12 wherein R^2 is methyl.

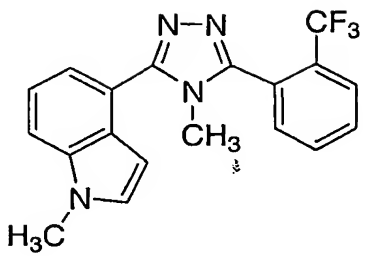
14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound of structural formula I is selected from the group consisting of:

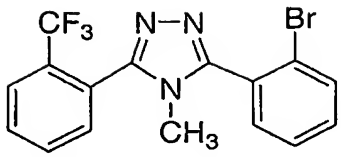


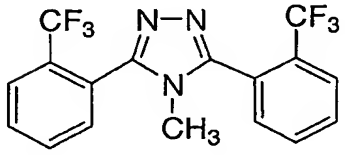


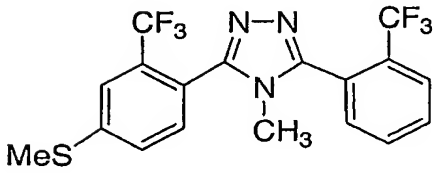


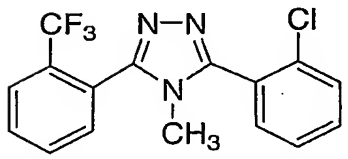




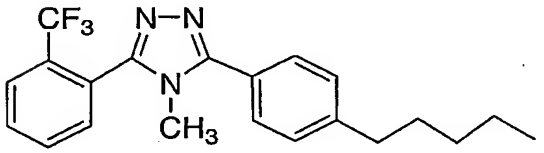








and

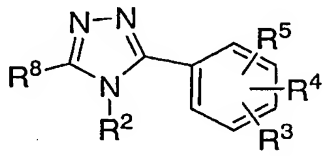


;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The method of Claim 2 wherein said diabetes is Type 2 diabetes.

16. A compound of structural formula II:



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

each n is 0, 1, or 2;

each p is 0, 1, or 2;

R^8 is naphthyl or heteroaryl wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of

pyridyl,

thienyl,

furyl,

pyrazolyl,

thiazolyl,
oxazolyl,
imidazolyl,
indolyl,
benzothiophenyl,
benzofuryl, and
benzimidazolyl;

in which naphthyl and heteroaryl are substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^3, R^4, and R^5;

R^2 is methyl or cyclopropyl;

R^3, R^4, and R^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,
formyl,
$C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl,
$C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heterocyclyl,
$(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}7}$ cycloalkyl,
halogen,
OR^7,
$(CH_2)_nN(R^7)_2$,
cyano,
$(CH_2)_nCO_2R^7$,
NO_2,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7SO_2R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nS(O)_pR^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2OR^7$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7C(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6C(O)R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6CO_2R^7$,
$O(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
CF_3,

CH_2CF_3,
OCF_3,
$OCHCF_2$, and
OCH_2CF_3;

wherein aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, and C_{1-4} alkoxy; and wherein any methylene (CH_2) carbon atom in R^3, R^4, and R^5 is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C_{1-4} alkyl; or two substituents when on the same methylene (CH_2) carbon atom are taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form a cyclopropyl group;

each R^6 is independently selected from the group consisting of

C_{1-8} alkyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl, and
$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl;

wherein alkyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, hydroxy, amino; and aryl and heteroaryl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{1-4} alkoxy;

or two R^6 groups together with the atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 8-membered mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from O, S, and NC_{1-4} alkyl; and

each R^7 is hydrogen or R^6.

17. The compound of Claim 16 wherein R^2 is methyl.

18. The compound of Claim 16 wherein R^8 is indolyl or pyrazolyl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^3.

19. The compound of Claim 18 wherein R^2 is methyl.

20. A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-methyl-3,5-bis[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-[4-(methylthio)-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;

4-methyl-3-(4-pentylphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(1-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-[5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]-1-methyl-1*H*-indole;
4-{4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl}-1-methyl-1*H*-indole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(7-chloro-1-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-[4-methyl-5-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-4-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]phenol;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(methylthio)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(2-methylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-[5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-[5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]-1-methyl-1*H*-indole;
4-methyl-3-(2-methyl-1-naphthyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(1,4-dichloro-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(4-chloro-1-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(1-fluoro-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
N-methyl-2-{4-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl}naphthalen-1-amine;
3,5-bis-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-[2-(ethylthio)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-cyclopropylphenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[(2-chloro-4-(ethylthio)phenyl)]-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-[(2-difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-[(2-difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2-phenoxyphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-[2-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl]-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-{2-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]phenyl}-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;

3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2-propoxyphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3,5-bis(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3,5-bis(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(3-chloro-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(5-chloro-6-methoxy-1-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[4-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[4-chloro-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trichloro-1-naphthyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(2-methylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(2-methylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2-methylphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethoxyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-cyclopropyl-5-[(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(4-chloro-3-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[(2-(methylthio)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[(2-(methylthio)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[(2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-[2-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole; and
4-[4-methyl-5-(1,2,3-trimethyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]phenol;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with Claim 16 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with Claim 20 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.